

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 8, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MAYOR: Louie A. Trujillo

COUNCILORS: Barbara A. Casey
David G. Romero
Michael L. Montoya
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT: Ann Marie Gallegos, Interim City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
David Silva, Acting City Attorney
David Bibb III, Sergeant at Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trujillo welcomed all the Council members, City Manager Gallegos, City Attorney Silva, City Clerk Fresquez and Deputy Clerk Sena to the City of Las Vegas Organizational meeting.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilor Casey asked for prayers for people in the community who had recently experienced loss of loved ones and prayed that the Lord would give solace and peace to the family of Harold Ledoux, who once served on the Council. She also prayed for the people of Las Vegas, to stay healthy and safe, to be able to cope with isolation and hoped that all would adhere to the rules in order to keep everyone safe. Councilor Casey asked for prayers for our new Mayor, that he would be successful, that he would bring Las Vegas back where it needed to be and hoped that everyone would work together for the benefit of the community.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Casey made a motion to move Executive Session (Item XII), after Public Input, to have the opportunity to discuss personnel matters pertaining to the appointments that would be made. Councilor Romero seconded. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes
Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	Barbara A. Casey	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (March 11th Special, March 11th WS and March 18th Regular, 2020)

Councilor Montoya stated that there had been a situation of confusion when the City Manager felt that it was necessary to cancel the Special and Work Session meetings without any direction from Mayor and Council. He advised that the City Charter read, *"Only the Mayor or three City members can call for a meeting"* and that after receiving notice, he met with the City Manager and City Clerk to advise them that only Mayor and Council had the authority to do that and the City Manager decided to continue to cancel the meeting.

Councilor Montoya advised that there was nothing in the City Charter giving the City Manager the authority to cancel any board meeting scheduled and that it caused confusion and created issues between the Governing body and the public, especially at the time of crisis and hoped it would never happen again as they moved forward.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the minutes for March 11th Special, March 11th WS and March 18th Regular.

Mayor Trujillo advised that he had been consulted on that matter by the City Manager and at that time Vince Howell was Mayor Pro Tem. He advised he understood Councilor Montoya's point and would make that clear to the next City Manager.

Councilor Casey seconded the motion and noted that she had sent in minor corrections to all three minutes. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David G. Romero	Yes	Barbara A. Casey	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

NOMINATION OF PRO-TEM

Councilor Casey made the motion to nominate Councilor David Romero for Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilor Romero advised that he accepted the nomination for Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Barbara A. Casey	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David G. Romero	Abstain

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

City Clerk Fresquez read in its entirety, the Duties of the Mayor Pro Tem into the record.

PUBLIC INPUT (Read into the record by City Clerk Fresquez)

Lorenzo Flores-Congratulated Mayor Trujillo on his victory, felt that the appointment of City Manager should be held up until the upcoming Runoff election in Ward 3 due to not believing Barbara Casey should have input in who will steer the community forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION/CLOSED SESSION

Councilor Casey made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters regarding the two people who would be appointed, as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes
Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

Councilor Casey made a motion to reconvene into Regular Session, advising only personnel matters were discussed as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978 and no action was taken. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Barbara A. Casey	Yes
David G. Romero	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

1. Approval/Disapproval to confirm the appointment of William Taylor as City Manager for the City of Las Vegas and enter into a Professional Contract.

Mayor Louie A. Trujillo advised that as per City of Las Vegas Municipal Charter, Article V, Officers, Directors and Employees, Section 5.01. City Manager, A. The City Manager shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to Council approval. The Governing Body shall enter into a contract with the City Manager which shall establish, among other matters, compensation, benefits, duties and responsibilities.

Councilor Casey made a motion to confirm the appointment of William Taylor as City Manager for the City of Las Vegas, give Mr. Taylor an opportunity to review his contract and the contract would be approved at next week's meeting, that would

include the necessary changes to the contract. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes
Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

Mayor Trujillo took the opportunity to welcome Dr. Bill Taylor as City Manager, as it was a big moment for the community. He stated they looked forward to moving the City forward with good projects, energizing the City and the employees and felt that Mr. Taylor would do a wonderful job.

Interim City Manager Gallegos stated that the community should embrace Mr. Taylor as City Manager and all the new forthcoming ideas.

2. Approval/Disapproval to confirm the appointment of Scott Aaron as City Attorney for the City of Las Vegas and enter into a Professional Contract.

Mayor Louie A. Trujillo advised as per City of Las Vegas Municipal Charter, Article V, Officer, Directors and Employees, Section 5.04. City Attorney, C. The Mayor shall appoint the city attorney, subject to Council approval. D. The Governing Body shall enter into a contract with the City Attorney which shall establish, among other matters, compensation, benefits, duties and responsibilities.

Councilor Romero made a motion to confirm the appointment of Scott Aaron as City Attorney for the City of Las Vegas, give Mr. Aaron the opportunity to review his contract and the contract would be approved at next week's meeting, that would include the necessary changes to the contract. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara A. Casey	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
David G. Romero	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

Mayor Trujillo took the opportunity to welcome Scott Aaron as the full time City Attorney for the City of Las Vegas, stating that he had vast experience in many different fields and the City of Las Vegas supported him.

Councilor Montoya commended Mayor Trujillo for his selections of Officers, that the City was in dire need of leadership and it was going in the right direction and asked for the patience of the community for the bright future of Las Vegas.

DISCUSSION

1. Strategic Planning and Goal Setting Session.

Mayor Louie A. Trujillo advised that the Governing Body would conduct a leadership Strategic Planning and Goal Setting Session after the run-off election to include the candidate that would take the seat for Councilor Ward 3.

Councilor Casey made a motion to table the Strategic Planning and Goal Setting Session to a future date. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David G. Romero	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	Barbara A. Casey	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval/Disapproval of Resolution 20-15, Declaring an emergency in the City of Las Vegas.

Mayor Louie A. Trujillo advised that under the laws of New Mexico Civil Preparation Act, the Governing Body may declare a State of Emergency for the City of Las Vegas, New Mexico for the purpose of exercising necessary emergency powers, expending local resources, and requesting State and Federal assistance.

Mayor Trujillo reminded of the situation regarding the COVID-19(Coronavirus) and how it was affecting the business community and the importance of helping them stay in business. He advised it was critical that the City had the resources to

protect the community and staff. Mayor Trujillo informed that a declaration was needed in order to be compensated for the purchases needed.

City Clerk Fresquez read Resolution 20-15 in its entirety into the record.

Mayor Trujillo thanked City Clerk Fresquez for her assistance in creating the declaration.

Councilor Romero thanked Mayor Trujillo for expediting the process to complete the declaration as he had been requesting it from the previous Mayor. He stated that he felt that some of the community members were not following the social distancing measures and encouraged any drastic measures that would need to be taken by the Mayor and City Manager, in preventing the spread in the community.

Mayor Trujillo recognized Mr. Leo Maestas from the Office of Emergency Management for an excellent job in informing the community, moving forward and helping him with guidance regarding the COVID -19 issues. He thanked Interim City Manager Gallegos for her help in creating the Resolution and also thanked Councilor Romero for his input. Mayor Trujillo stated that he felt the loss of gathering at church although asked everyone to please enforce the Federal and State mandate in order to be safe.

Councilor Montoya thanked everyone who was abiding by the Governor's rules and regulations, those who were assisting community members and thanked Dr. Tafoya for his information to the community on how the medical field was dealing with the virus. He encouraged everyone to stay home.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve Resolution 20-15, Declaring an emergency in the City of Las Vegas. Councilor Casey seconded the motion.

Resolution 20-15 was presented as follows:

**CITY OF LAS VEGAS
RESOLUTION 20-15**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN
THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS**

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has officially declared there to be a global pandemic of COVID-19 (Coronavirus); and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of New Mexico has declared a public health emergency in

order to contain and combat the virus; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Health Secretary has issued a public health order suspending mass gatherings in New Mexico effective immediately in order to prevent the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has officially declared a state of health emergency with regards to the national COVID-19 epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has advised that local governments should take immediate action to limit the spread of the virus through social distancing, cancellation of public meetings, limiting public gatherings and events, and implementing additional public health safety and education measures to prevent, contain and, where possible, to mitigate the impact of the virus; and

WHEREAS, cases of the virus in New Mexico have been confirmed and continue to increase and are growing closer to the City of Las Vegas; and

WHEREAS, national and state health experts now believe that the spread of the virus throughout the country appears to be inevitable at this point; and

WHEREAS, the City of Las Vegas is eligible to file for emergency financial resources related to the time spent and supplies used during this medical emergency event; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has passed the Federal Emergency Leave Act.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS that under the laws of The All Hazard Emergency Management Act do declare a state of emergency for the City of Las Vegas, New Mexico for the purpose of exercising necessary emergency powers, for requesting aid, expending local resources, and requesting State and Federal assistance.

1. The City of Las Vegas, New Mexico is authorized to exercise all powers pursuant to the Hazard Emergency Management Act until the Governor of New Mexico lifts the public health emergency declared in Executive Order 2020-004 and extended in Executive Order 2020-022.
2. That, consistent with the declarations of the WHO, the federal government, and the Governor of the State of New Mexico, a Disaster Declaration of a Health Emergency is hereby established by the Council for and in the City of Las Vegas.
3. The Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and City Manager to conduct such emergency measures as may be appropriate to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare of both our residents and visitors.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of April 2020.

Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

APPROVED FOR LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

David Silva, Contracted City Attorney

ATTEST:

Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk

Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David G. Romero	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

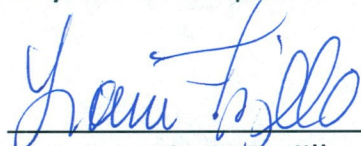
Mayor Trujillo advised there were a lot of people doing a lot of good things in the community, making masks and delivering food. He stated that Sarah Jo Matthews and Aaron Gallegos were helping with food distribution and soup kitchens were helping, donations being given and thanked all the community.

ADJOURN

Councilor Romero made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes
Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.



Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:


Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk